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WOMEN, WAR AND HYGIENE.

BY JENNIE CHANDLER.

The treaty for the arbitration of all disputes between Great Britain and the United States, at this writing only awaiting the confirmation of our Senate to become a law, is one of the most important signs of progress we have had for a long time. When people, whether savage or civilized, become entirely industrial in their habits, rather than warlike or nomadic, progress goes on rapidly. Wars are wasteful, wasteful of life, wasteful of property, wasteful of energy, which it is the chief aim of hygiene to prevent. They may sometimes be the lesser of two evils, may sometimes be unavoidable, but as civilization advances they should become less frequent and finally disappear. There are few women, we hope, who do not earnestly desire that the treaty should be confirmed. It may have defects, but these can in time be mended. From one woman's point of view it will be a sad fate if it is permanently rejected. Why so? some one may ask. The answer is not difficult to give. Woman's lot in life from early times has always been a hard one. The cruelties and hardships which have always been heaped upon her cannot easily be estimated. About the only limit of the brutality of savage men toward woman is her strength to bear up under it, live and perform the duties of motherhood and wifehood. Of course a race would soon disappear if it treated its women so hard that they could not do this. As mankind improves this treatment has been less and less severe, but it has not yet become what it should be. Now if history teaches us anything it teaches us that the condition of women even among savage races has always improved when these races have been peaceful and industrious in their habits. The same is true among civilized ones. The condition of woman is higher, she is treated most respectfully and decently in those countries where military spirit has become most feeble and the industrial spirit has become predominant. In no part of the civilized world does woman get her equal rights, nowhere is she so much respected, nowhere has she so much influence as in the United States, and here wars have been less frequent and most dreaded. Nowhere are there so large a number who oppose war and wish to settle all disputes by arbitration. This treaty if confirmed will make wars less probable, perhaps do them away forever. It seems to me that woman has a duty to try and make wars impossible for her own sake and the sake of her family. How will this benefit hygiene? By promoting her interests, children will be better born and cared for. Their education, their morals, their health, their hygienic environment can be more easily perfected.

Herbert Spencer says "that the despotism distinguishing a community organized for war is essentially connected with despotism in the home; while the freedom which characterizes public life in an industrial community naturally characterizes also the accompanying home life.

"Habitual antagonism and destruction of foes sear the sympathies, while daily exchange of products and services among citizens puts no obstacle to the increase of good-will. And the altruism (or regard for others) which grows with peaceful co-operation ameliorates the life without the household and the life within it,"

A good illustration of this is shown among the Lapps, a country not yet highly advanced in civilization. W.

Mathieu Williams, a well known, but now deceased, writer on popular science and hygiene in a book, "Through Norway with Ladies," says: "There is no people in the world, however refined, among whom the relative position of man and woman is more favorable to the latter than among the Lapps. Is it because the men are not warriors? They have no soldiers, fight no battles, either with outside foreigners or between the various tribes and families among themselves. In spite of their wretched huts, their dirty faces, their primitive clothing, their ignorance of literature, art, science, they rank above us in the higher element of true civilization, the moral element; and all the warlike nations of the world may stand uncovered before them."—*The Journal of Hygiene*.

THE ANGLO-SAXON TRUCE OF GOD.

In a sermon recently preached at Baltimore, Rev. Dr. Charles R. Weld used these weighty words:

"Much confusion arises from the way in which the word peace is misunderstood. When it is robbed of its active character, made synonymous with the quiet of the country, the calmness of the ocean, the tranquility of autumn, the point is missed. A prosperous nation has peace, but when it has quiet it dies. Peace is like some great engine. Each part is in its place, working effectually and powerfully. Human life is a vast mechanism. When church and state and society work harmoniously when trade, commerce, agriculture, when enterprise and daring and industry work harmoniously, then there is peace. Peace comes from the root pacto. It is a compact between yourself and that other self so that each is in full possession of its own rights. All men are not equal, in spite of the Declaration of Independence, but all men should be free. Each should have his own opportunity. The world is all wrong, and man has made it wrong. Peace is not made by crushing rebellions; it is made by giving to each his right. That is the purpose of God.

"Is Christianity, which is called the 'good tidings of peace,' a failure? When a building falls, when a bridge breaks the geometric principle is not on trial, but the poor material used in building. If the democracy should perish and the great republic become a despotism, is the theory of self government at fault or man's application of the theory? Summing all up, the world has seen but two civilizations—Pagan and Christian. The pagan is blood, iron, power, self. The Christian is universal justice, forbearance, mercy, unselfishness. These two civilizations are now in irrepressible conflict. The pendulum is swinging. Now justice, now the brute is uppermost. There is a strange spectacle to-day. The world is an armed camp—Europe bristles with bayonets, and even the United States is infected by the war spirit; yet notice the contradiction. Universal peace has never been so near.

"The world's head is opposed to war. The intelligence which invents dynamite quickened the universal sense of justice. Never has war appeared more wicked, useless and wasteful than now, because the bayonet is beginning to think. The sense of humanity is gaining. Beside the seven royal families, men see that all families have rights, that the results of war fall upon the innocent. There is a higher sense of man. Men are no longer looked upon as food for cannon, but as sons of God. There is some-